


Cellular network with public network interface and local arer network expansion

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A communication system (100) and method for coupling a wireless local area network (WLAN 128) to a public network (102) to enable communication between User Equipment terminals (UEs 130) associated with the WLAN and the public network. The public network (102) can include a GSM (110) and/or a 3G-network (114). The WLAN (128) can include a HiperLAN, HiperMAN, or 802.11 network. Preferably, the communication is voice communication, and the system (100) is configured to enable the UEs (130) to access supplementary services provided by the public network (102). Subscriber and security information for the UEs (102) can be provided to the public network (102) from a SIM (134) associated with each UE, or from an identity module (138) comprising either a private memory with information stored therein, or a card holder/reader holding cards with subscriber and security information for one or more UEs. Optionally, the system (100) further includes a private cellular network (122) the WLAN (128) also enables communication between the UEs (130) and the private cellular network.

